

**Human Services & Access to Jobs & Justice Legislative Update  
September 24, 2012**

Below is a list of Human Services bills Western Center has either sponsored or is supporting that were passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor's desk. Some of these letters have already been signed. The Governor must make a decision no later than September 30, 2012.

***CalFresh and Anti-Hunger Legislation***

[SB 970 \(de León\)](#) would require that the new single application for healthcare coverage required by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) to allow applicants to use that information to start an application for public programs such as CalFresh and CalWORKs.

[SB 1391 \(Liu\)](#) **SIGNED!** would set a standard, statewide threshold and policy for establishing and collecting CalFresh overissuances when the overissuance is due to administrative error.

[AB 1359 \(Skinner\)](#) **SIGNED!** would simplify the administration of immediate need CalFresh benefits and would ensure conformity of state law to federal law regulations in administering applications for expedited CalFresh services.

[AB 1594 \(Eng\)](#) requires charter schools to offer a free and reduced priced meal to eligible children.

[AB 2322 \(Gatto\)](#) would improve transparency of process for grocery retailers (vendors) partnering with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program when a moratorium on new stores is called for in the future and allow the Department of Public Health to respond with more agility to changes in federal rules governing the program.

***Access to Jobs and Justice***

[AB 1775 \(Wieckowski\)](#) **SIGNED!** would protect low-income workers against wage garnishment.

[AB 2393 \(Davis\)](#) would increase the threshold that would qualify a parent paying child support to qualify for a low-income adjustment require it be adjusted annually for cost of living increases.

➔ [AB 2508 \(Bonilla\)](#) would preclude state agencies or departments from authorizing call-center contracts for public assistance or health benefit programs if they hire employees outside California to perform the work. California Labor Federation is a co-sponsor of this legislation.

***California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) & Income Legislation***

[AB 1640 \(Mitchell\)](#) would change the state's CalWORKs statute to allow for pregnant teenager (with no other children in the household) to become eligible for CalWORKs basic needs grants upon verification of the pregnancy rather than making her wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester.

[AB 2035 \(Bradford\)](#) **SIGNED!** would protect recipients of cash assistance from electronic theft of their benefits. This bill has been introduced as a result of *Carpio v. Lightbourne*, a case brought by Western Center on Law and Poverty and Neighborhood Legal Services.

**Western Center on Law and Poverty** is a support center for California's legal aid community and leads the way in large-scale impact litigation, administrative advocacy, budget advocacy and legislative advocacy in an effort to ensure that low-income Californians can easily access safe and affordable housing, adequate health care, and safety net services. For more information, contact:

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